

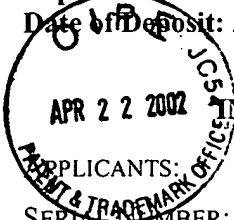
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Powell, *et al.*

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/766,863

EXAMINER: Suryaprabha Chunduru

FILING DATE: January 19, 2001

ART UNIT: 1656

FOR: METHOD OF IDENTIFYING THE FUNCTION OF A TEST AGENT

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 22, 2001

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 22, 2001, which is due on or before April 22, 2002, with the appropriate fees for an extension of time. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20. Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejections as set forth below, and request that the Examiner consider the following remarks, which Applicants respectfully submit demonstrate that the claims are in condition for allowance.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 22, 2001 ("Office Action"), the Examiner made the following rejections:

- (1) Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 10-13 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Friend et al. (U.S.P.N. 6,165,709);
- (2) Claims 3, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Friend et al. and in view of Kinzler et al. (U.S.P.N. 5,695,937); and
- (3) Claims 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Friend et al. and in view of Bieche et al. (Clinical Chem., 45(8):1148-1156, 1999).

Although the Office Action Summary indicates that claims 1-20 have been rejected, the Detailed Action does not specifically set forth any rejection of claim 14. Applicants respectfully request clarification regarding the status of claim 14.